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Urban Districts of

Hoylake, Neston and Wirral

REPORT

OF

The Medical Officer of Health

J. HATTON, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.




For the Year 1956

Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1956

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INTRODUCTION

The report for 1956 contains statistics for comparison with other areas or with the Country as a whole.

The Urban Districts which are considered in the report have changed little in character though of recent years new industries have been introduced into Wirral and Neston.

Some progress has been made during 1956 on Housing and Slum Clearance following a Survey of the District and the submission of proposals for demolition and slum clearance to the Ministry of Health.

The hygiene of food premises has received a good deal of attention during the year and already a considerable improvement in conditions has been secured.

The birth and death rates compare favourably with those of England and Wales and the infant mortality rate approximates with the national figure.

Notifications of infectious disease showed a further slight increase this year, a feature being an outbreak of Measles in the Wirral Urban District.

HOYLAKE URBAN DISTRICT.

The Urban District was constituted in 1889; and on 1st April, 1933, the Parishes of Caldy, Frankby, Greasby, Grange and part of Saughall Massie were added.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	5,933
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population (mid-1956)	31,560
Number of inhabited houses	9,200
Rateable Value	£447,034
Sum represented by a penny rate	£1,800

The area is residential and agricultural. Fishing is still pursued by Hoylake men, and other occupations are laundry and domestic work, wood-working, printing and brickmaking.

The natural increase of a population is the excess of births over deaths. The following table shows the condition 1947—1956 in Hoylake :—

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population.
1947	26,280	20 more births than deaths +0.8
1948	27,310	23 more births than deaths +0.8
1949	27,500	1 more birth than deaths +.04
1950	30,950	40 more births than deaths +1.3
1951	30,880	76 more deaths than births —2.5
1952	31,260	50 more deaths than births —1.6
1953	30,620	17 more births than deaths +0.8
1954	31,080	2 more births than deaths +0.1
1955	32,050	50 more births than deaths +1.6
1956	31,560	4 more births than deaths +0.1

Extracts from vital statistics for the year 1956.

These statistics are calculated on a population of 31,560, the estimate furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births.					Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	397	213	184
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	10	3	7
Totals	....	....	....	....	407	216	191

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	....	....	12.9
Birth Rate standardised for comparison with England and Wales			16.1
Birth Rate for England and Wales	....	....	15.7

Stillbirths.					Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....	....	....	10	7	3
Illegitimate	....	....	....	....	—	—	—
Totals	....	....	....	....	10	7	3

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	....	...	24.0
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales	....	....	23.0

Deaths.					Total	Males	Females
					403	164	239

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population	....	12.8
Death Rate standardised for comparison with England and Wales	....	11.5
Death Rate for England and Wales	....	11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate ...	10	8	2
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—
Totals	10	8	2
All infants per 1,000 live births....			24.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			25.2
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			—
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales			23.8
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			62
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)			Nil

Number of Deaths during Years 1947—1956.

Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 per annum.
1947	397	15.1
1948	330	12.1
1949	357	13.0
1950	367	11.9
1951	430	13.9
1952	407	13.0
1953	351	11.5
1954	383	12.3
1955	362	11.3
1956	403	12.8

Deaths at Various Ages During 1956.

Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year	10
1 year and under 2	1
2 years and under 5	—
5 years and under 15	—
15 years and under 25	2
25 years and under 35	2
35 years and under 45	11
45 years and under 55	20
55 years and under 65	57
65 years and under 75	101
75 years and under 85	137
85 years and over	62
Total	403

Table of Infantile Mortality, 1947—1956.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births):—

Year	Hoylake	England and Wales
1947	55.2	41
1948	19.8	34
1949	22.3	32
1950	14.7	29.8
1951	25.4	29.6
1952	30.8	27.6
1953	27.1	26.8
1954	20.8	25.5
1955	19.4	24.9
1956	24.6	23.8

Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Prematurity	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Congenital Malformations	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Birth Trauma	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total	7	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	10

Causes of Death.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	2	1	3
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	4	7	11
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	11	3	14
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	8	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	11	17	28
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	1	2
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	16	46	62
18. Coronary disease, angina	29	25	54
19. Hypertension with heart disease	5	5	10
20. Other heart disease	11	42	53
21. Other circulatory disease	14	12	26
22. Influenza	1	5	6
23. Pneumonia	6	13	19
24. Bronchitis	14	12	26
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	—	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	7	2	9
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2	—	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	4	6
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	4	—	4
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	3	1	4
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	10	20	30
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
34. All other accidents	3	9	12
35. Suicide	3	3	6
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
TOTALS	164	239	403

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1956 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population Estimated Mid-Year	LIVE BIRTHS				DEATHS								Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)		
		Number	Rate	Standardised Rate for Comparison with England & Wales	Rate England & Wales	Total Number Registered in District	Transferable		Under 1 year			At all ages				
							Of Non-Residents Registered in District	Of Residents Not Registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate England & Wales	Number	Rate		Standardised Rate for comparison with England & Wales	Rate England & Wales
1947	26,280	417	15.9	—	20.5	331	33	99	23	55.2	41	397	15.1	—	12.0	+20
1948	27,310	353	12.9	—	17.9	244	17	103	7	19.8	34	330	12.1	—	10.8	+23
1949	27,500	358	13.0	—	16.7	274	17	100	8	22.3	32	357	13.0	10.4	11.7	+1
1950	30,950	407	13.2	13.7	15.8	272	19	114	6	14.7	29.8	367	11.9	10.4	11.6	+40
1951	30,880	354	11.5	13.3	15.5	303	25	152	9	25.4	29.6	430	13.9	12.1	12.5	—76
1952	31,260	357	11.4	13.2	15.3	319	33	121	11	30.8	27.6	407	13.0	11.3	11.3	—50
1953	30,620	368	12.0	13.9	15.5	265	27	113	10	27.1	26.8	351	11.5	10.0	11.4	+17
1954	31,080	385	12.4	15.5	15.2	300	40	123	8	20.8	25.5	383	12.3	10.3	11.3	+2
1955	32,050	412	12.9	16.1	15.0	286	43	119	8	19.4	24.9	362	11.3	10.5	11.7	+50
1956	31,560	407	12.9	16.1	15.7	312	39	130	10	24.6	23.8	403	12.8	11.5	11.7	+4

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Details are given on page 3.

Laboratory Facilities.

Investigations of a Public Health nature are undertaken by the Birkenhead and Liverpool branches of the Ministry of Health Laboratory Service. A clinical pathology service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board in the Board's laboratories at the Clatterbridge General Hospital and the Victoria Hospital, Wallasey.

Food and drugs throughout the district are submitted for analysis to the Cheshire County Laboratory. The samples are taken by County Officers.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Cheshire County Council is the ambulance authority for this area.

The ambulance service is operated from "Broomfield", Meols Drive, Hoylake, (telephone Hoylake 2970) and Sandymount, Telegraph Road, Heswall (telephone Heswall 3003).

Home Nursing.

This service is now regulated by the Cheshire County Council and two District Nurses are employed by them in this area. The Hoylake and West Kirby District Nursing Association works independently. The Association provides two trained nurses for work about the district, and subscriptions from charitable persons and small charges for services rendered serve to support the organisation.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The County Council's Diphtheria Immunisation Clinic is conducted at "Broomfield", Meols Drive, Hoylake, every Thursday at 2.0 p.m. and additional clinics are arranged when required.

The following clinics are also provided by the Cheshire County Council :—

Child Welfare.

Place	Each Month	Time.
Hoylake—"Broomfield," Clinic Centre, Meols Drive	Every Thursday	2-0 p.m.
West Kirby—Parish Hall, West- bourne Road	Every Friday	1-45 p.m.
Greasby—Methodist Church Hall	Every Tuesday	1-45 p.m.

Ante-Natal.

This Clinic is provided by the Cheshire County Council in conjunction with the Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee and is held at :

Hoylake—"Broomfield," Clinic
Centre, Meols Drive Every Tuesday 9.30 a.m.
The County Health Visitors and Midwives are in attendance.

School Clinic.

Hoylake—"Broomfield," Clinic
Centre, Meols Drive Every Friday 9-30 a.m.
(School Medical Officer attends every Friday at 9-30 a.m.)

Dental Treatment.

Dental Clinics are held by arrangement at "Broomfield," Meols Drive, Hoylake.

The following specialist clinics are provided for patients residing in the Hoylake Urban District :—

Ophthalmic.

Place	Each Month	Time
Hoylake—"Broomfield," Clinic Centre, Meols Drive	1st and 3rd Fridays ...	2-0 p.m.

Orthopaedic.

Hoylake Cottage Hospital	1st and 3rd Saturdays	9-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m.
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Speech Therapy.

Hoylake—"Broomfield," Clinic Centre, Meols Drive	Every Monday	9-0 a.m. to 4-0 p.m.
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Paediatric.

Hoylake—"Broomfield," Clinic Centre, Meols Drive	Every Monday	3.30 p.m.
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Tuberculosis.

Wallasey—Mill Lane Hospital

Every Monday	9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. adults. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. adults.
Every Tuesday	9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. children 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. adults.
Every Wednesday	9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. adults.
Every Friday	9 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. adults.

Hoylake—Hoylake Cottage Hospital.

1st and 3rd Mondays	2-30 p.m.
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Venereal Disease

St. James Hospital, Every Monday 2-30 to 6.30 p.m. Male and Female. Tollemache Road, Birkenhead.	Every Wednesday 10-0 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. Male (Clinic Annexe) and Female.
	Every Friday 2-0 to 6-30 p.m. Male and Female.
Wallasey, Mill Lane Hospital.	Every Monday 6 to 7 p.m. Females. Every Monday 7 to 8 p.m. Males.

Hospitals.

The hospitals of the district, both voluntary and public, are under the control of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board. Hoylake is in the area of the North Wirral Hospital Management Committee which administers the Hoylake and West Kirby Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital and Caldby Manor Hospital. The Queen Victoria Memorial Hospital has an authorized bed complement of 38. It is staffed by the practitioners of the district and by visiting consultants. It is equipped for major surgical work and has a modern X-ray department.

Caldby Manor Hospital is specialized for the treatment of heart and circulatory conditions. 41 beds are provided there, and there is a visiting medical and consultant staff.

Other hospitals and institutions under the Board's management are available to local residents. The hospitals at Clatterbridge still admit a large number of patients from this area and others go to the hospitals of Liverpool and Birkenhead.

The Smallpox Hospital for the treatment of cases of this disease is situated at New Ferry.

The Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby, which has not been included in the Regional Hospital Scheme, provides a number of beds for the emergency treatment of sick children from this locality. This institution has excellent equipment and is staffed by visiting Practitioners and Consultants. It is provided with a steam disinfecter.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

This Act gives power to Local Sanitary Authorities to arrange for removal to hospital under a Justice's order of aged and infirm persons who are not able to look after themselves and who are not receiving proper care and attention. Much time and patience are needed in order to help these old people and a number of such cases have been investigated. Experience has shown that the provisions of this Section are not very effective mainly because of the shortage of hospital and other accommodation for the infirm and chronic sick.

Mortuaries.

The Public Mortuary which is owned by the Urban District Council is situated in Carr Lane, Hoylake.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

The District receives its supply partly from the Council's own Waterworks and partly from the West Cheshire Water Board. The sources of supply are deep wells at Grange and Newton in the former case, and from Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth in the latter. In both cases the supplies are controlled by quarterly chemical and bacteriological examinations. All supplies are chlorinated, and samples of raw water and of water going into supply after treatment have been examined. All those investigated during the year have proved satisfactory. None of the waters supplied in the area has a plumbo solvent action, and the Analyst's reports have revealed no evidence of contamination in any form.

With the exception of seven houses on Hilbre, one house at Saughall Massie and a cottage in South Ward, public main supplies are in use throughout the area for drinking and domestic and trade purposes. The Children's Convalescent Home, West Kirby, has an independent supply from a borehole 300 feet deep at the Home, and there is also a borehole providing an independent supply at the Deeside Laundry, West Kirby.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to the house, (b) by means of stand pipes, are given below :-

			Dwelling Houses	Population
(a) House direct	....	....	9,183	31,500
(b) Standpipes	....	....	17	60

Consumption.

It is estimated that the average consumption of water supplied from the Council's Waterworks is approximately 43 gallons per head per day. This figure includes water used for trade purposes.

The details of the volume supplied to consumers in this area by the West Cheshire Water Board are not available, but it is estimated that consumption was in the order of 34.5 gallons per head per day.

Drainage and Sewerage

Ten reports of sewer blockages were received during the year. Seven of these were caused by tree roots penetrating the joints between pipes, one by defective construction and two as a result of silt and deposits following extensive flooding.

As a result of the rainfall in the early autumn, extensive flooding was experienced in all parts of the district providing abundant additional evidence of the necessity for an early start on the main sewerage scheme.

The scheme for the reconstruction of the main drainage system of Meols, Hoylake and West Kirby was submitted to the Ministry in 1954. Consideration has been deferred pending a report on the scheme for reconstruction of the North Wirral Outfall system.

To relieve flooding in Frankby Road, Meols and Croft Drive East, Caldy, the Council have agreed to the construction of surface water relief sewers in these districts. Work on these schemes is to be put in hand early in 1957.

An additional 280 houses have been connected to the sewerage scheme.

Rivers and Streams

During the period of heavy rain in the early autumn the low-lying lands along either side of the River Birket became flooded to a depth in places of about two feet. The water lay on the fields for such a length of time that all vegetation in the area became decayed. The area is still waterlogged. At the same time the Arrowe Brook overflowed its banks at several points in the Greasby area, flooding property and gardens. The Council have made very strong representations to the Cheshire Rivers Board stressing the necessity for further works to safeguard the area from a repetition of these conditions in the future.

The discharge of crude sewage into the Arrowe Brook from a storm water overflow chamber situated in an adjacent district, at a period when the flow of the brook was low, gave rise to extensive fouling of the banks and bed of the water course in the vicinity of dwelling houses in Greasby.

The question of re-designing this chamber has been under consideration for some time past but it is apparent that a great deal can be done to reduce such occurrences to a minimum by frequent routine attention to the chamber in question, and this has been arranged with the Surveyor of the Wirral Urban District.

Closet Accommodation.

Thirty-one dwellings, including seventeen which are occupied as summer dwellings, are provided with closets other than water closets.

Open Spaces.

The District has some 225.5 acres of public open space.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse is collected from every dwelling house each week, and from certain other premises three times each week. A bi-weekly collection is also made from schools and public institutions.

Statistics.

Number of premises, excluding R.A.F. Camp, West Kirby, from which refuse was collected	....	....	....	....	9,804
Number of bins, including R.A.F. Camp, West Kirby	....				11,180
Weight of refuse collected per annum	....	....	....	....	9,491 tons.
Average length of haul to tip	....	....	....	....	2½ ml.
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 premises visited (per visit)	....	....	....	....	£41
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 bins collected (per collection)	....	....	....	....	£36

Salvage Collected.

					<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwts.</i>	<i>Qtrs.</i>	£
Paper	....	....	....	....	433	15	—	3,686
Textiles	....	....	....	....	3	9	2	63
Baled Tins	....	....	....	....	28	0	0	129
TOTAL	....	....	....	....	465	4	2	3,878

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made		Notices Served		Result of Service of Notices	
		Statutory	Informal	Complied With	Outstanding
Dwelling Houses—P.H.A.	818	59	93	89	4
H.A. Representations	224	—	14	—	—
H.A. Overcrowding	7	—	—	—	—
H.A. Certs. of Disrepair	20	7	—	5	2
H.A. Improvement Grants	24	—	4	4	—
Cesspool, Septic Tanks	18	—	1	—	—
Disinfection....	31	—	—	—	—
Ditches, Watercourses	124	—	4	4	—
Drainage	469	61	77	75	2
Dustbins	109	—	20	16	4
Factories—with Mechanical Power	145	—	5	5	—
without „ „	87	—	10	10	—
Food Inspection	77	—	2	2	—
Food Poisoning	121	—	—	—	—
Food Premises—Bakehouses	129	—	11	10	1
Butchers	53	—	12	10	2
Dairies	77	—	3	3	—
Ice Cream Premises	76	—	—	—	—
Restaurants & Cafes	123	—	20	18	2
Schools, Hospitals & Institutions etc.	123	—	20	11	9
Hotels, Clubs etc.	147	—	28	28	—
Food distribution	25	—	3	3	—
Other Premises	192	—	47	40	5
Street Vendors & Hawkers	60	—	4	—	4
Hairdressers & Barbers	54	—	—	—	—
Hackney Carriages	112	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Sampling	70	—	—	—	—
Infectious Disease	103	—	—	—	—
Keeping of Animals	90	1	6	—	—
Licensed Premises	171	—	28	28	—
Milk Sampling	163	—	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	142	—	16	16	—
Other Food Samples	12	—	—	—	—
Pet Shops	32	—	—	—	—
Places of Entertainment	41	—	—	—	—
Privies, Earthclosets	36	—	—	—	—
Public Conveniences	66	—	—	—	—
Rat Infestations	1466	—	5	5	—
„ „ Sewer Treatment	498	—	—	—	—
Refuse Collection & Disposal	46	—	3	3	—
Schools	55	—	—	—	—
Shops Act	39	—	—	—	—
Smoke Observations	37	2	1	3	—
Soil Samples....	11	—	—	—	—
Swimming Pools	11	—	—	—	—
Temporary & Moveable Dwellings	66	1	4	4	1
Verminous Premises	135	—	1	1	—
Water Supply	25	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	749	—	21	21	—
TOTALS	7509	131	463	414	36

Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

Inspections.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	15	74	3	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	71	195	29	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	29	11	1	—
Total	115	280	33	—

Defects Found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	29	29	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	34	33	—	—	—

Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

The only factories of any size in the area are 3 laundries, a brick-works, and an artificial tooth factory but many small businesses come under the definition of factory and as such are subject to inspection. A copy of the return made to the Ministry of Labour and National Service is reproduced on page 21.

Licensed Premises

A great deal of repair, maintenance and decoration work has been carried out as a result of notices to the various owners of Licensed Premises in the District.

Complete re-construction and extension of sanitary accommodation has been completed at 2 public houses and ventilation has been improved in 5 cases.

Thirty swabs taken of washed glasses to check thoroughness of cleansing were reported satisfactory by the Bacteriologist.

Shops Act, 1912 to 1950

There has been little activity in the administration of those sections of the Shops Act relating to hours of closing etc., owing to staff shortage and to pressure of other work. The provision as to ventilation, lighting, heating and sanitary accommodation are carried out simultaneously with other inspections under the Food Hygiene Regulations and other statutory provisions.

Camping Sites and Moveable Dwellings

One Camping Site at Greasby is authorized by the Council. Control is effected through the medium of the Hoylake Urban District Council Act, 1935 and Bye Laws made there-under; 25 caravans and a few tents occupy the site and are used for habitation during the summer months only.

Smoke Abatement

Routine smoke observations were carried out during the year and the issue of four warnings was effective in rectifying temporary lapses.

A petition from several residents listed smoke nuisance among various objections to a factory and a report on a special investigation was submitted to the Health and Water Committee. The Committee were satisfied that conditions warranting the exercise of their statutory powers did not exist.

Temporary use of a hand fired boiler furnace at a hospital during the repair of the mechanically fired boiler normally in use gave rise to complaint of excessive smoke. The nuisance was promptly abated.

The new powers conferred by those provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, which came into operation at the end of the year were reported on to the Health and Water Committee, who are awaiting further advice before deciding the question of Smoke Control Areas and the adopting of the Model Building Bye Law in regard to heating and cooking appliances in new buildings.

Swimming Baths and Pools

There are two open-air public swimming baths in the district, Hoylake Baths and the West Kirkby Marine Lake. Filtration and Chlorination plant is installed at the former and the water of both baths is subjected to periodical bacteriological and chemical examinations.

Eradication of Bed Bugs

Number of houses found to be infested :

(a) Council houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
(b) Other houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	13

Number of houses disinfested :

(a) Council houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	—
(b) Other houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	3

Method employed : Spraying with D.D.T. Insecticide.

Hydrogen Cyanide Regulations

Notifications under the above regulations of the treatment of one private house with hydrogen cyanide for woodworm was received from private operators.

Schools

All schools in the district are supplied with water from the public supplies and all are provided with water closets. There are 2 Grammar, 1 Secondary and 3 Primary schools belonging to the County Authority with 3 controlled C. of E. and 1 C. of E. outside County control. Also there are 2 boarding schools and 8 private schools.

An inspection of all County Council School Canteens of both A and B types was carried out in June with Officers of the County Architects, Education and Health Departments, who were engaged in formulating a report for the whole of the County. A schedule of works was agreed and has been submitted to the County Authorities.

The standard of these canteens is very high with up-to-date equipment and facilities for large scale preparation and cooking of food.

One main problem remains outstanding, viz., the provision of suitable kitchen accommodation at Meols C. of E. controlled school, the present arrangements being unsatisfactory.

Four of the private schools and 2 boarding schools have facilities for school meals, and all items to which attention was requested were undertaken speedily by the managements, who co-operated with this department willingly.

During the year one consignment of meat issued to a school was surrendered as unfit for human consumption.

All schools are supplied with Pasteurised milk and all institutions admitting children obtain either Tuberculin Tested or Pasteurised milk.

HOUSING

285 units of accommodation were provided by the Council and private enterprise during 1956, compared with 288 during 1955. Of this number, 10 new houses were erected by the Council, 267 houses and 12 flats by private enterprise, resulting from the conversion of existing houses.

During the year the following progress has been made :

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
No. of new houses erected during 1956	10	267	277
No. of flats provided in 1956	—	8	8
TOTAL	10	275	285

The following table indicates the progress made since the 1st August, 1945, when the Ministry of Health authorised the commencement of housing programmes

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
No. of new houses erected since 1st August, 1945	625	1093	1728
No. of war damaged houses erected since 1st August 1945	—	10	
No. of flats provided since 1st August, 1945	26	329	355
TOTAL	651	1432	2083

Returns relating to demolition, closing and repair of houses are now submitted quarterly to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government. Summarized they show that 3 families occupying 2 houses in Caldý which were the subject of a Clearance Order were re-housed and the unfit houses demolished.

9 houses were included in official representations, the following procedure being decided upon :

By way of Clearance Area (2)	7 houses
By way of Demolition Order	1 house (now demolished)
By way of Undertaking	1 house (the undertaking was cancelled on the house being rendered fit).

3 Certificates of Disrepair were issued.

3 Certificates previously issued were revoked.

4 Improvement Grants were made to a total value of £352.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The provisions of Section 19 (1) of the Food and Drugs (Milk Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act 1950 came into operation in this district by Order of the Minister of Food on the 31st March, 1955. The effect of this sub-section is that after that date any Dairyman retailing milk in any part of this district must sell the milk under a special designation, and these designations are Tuberculin Tested, Pasteurised and Sterilized. It is also obligatory to use a special designation for milk sold to a caterer.

19 distributors are registered in the district, to whom licences for the sale of designated milk have been issued as follows :

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949-1954 :

Dealers Retailing Licence	....	....	....	....	15
Supplementary Retailing Licence	....	....	....	....	4

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milks) Regulations 1949-1954 :

Dealers Retailing Licence	....	....	....	....	32
Supplementary Retailing Licence	....	....	....	....	9

Samples derived from the 5 pasteurizing plants supplying the district are submitted for phosphatase tests at regular intervals—this year there were no failures.

Raw milk supplies are submitted to statutory tests and to biological examination at quarterly intervals. None of the 31 biological samples taken this year were positive for tubercle.

Designation	Number of Samples	Methy-lene Blue		Phos-phatase		Tubercle Bacilli		Turbidity	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Positive	Negative	Passed	Failed
Sterilised	14	14	—	14	—	—	—	14	—
Pasteurised	28	28	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Accredited	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ungraded	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculin Tested	59	57	2	59	—	—	31	—	—
T. T. Pasteurised	32	31	1	32	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	133	130	3	105	—	—	31	14	—

There was some evidence of lack of care in capping milk bottles at farm premises and this was referred to the appropriate Area Milk Officer. A warning was given to a local distributor for similar reasons.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

Many of the local butchers have ceased to rely on distribution contractors and transport their own supplies from the abattoirs. One multiple firm has its own specially constructed vehicle. Two contractors were interviewed regarding unsatisfactory vehicles from which it appeared that their trade had fallen off to such a degree that special arrangements previously made were not continued. Standards complying with the Food Regulations were insisted upon and there has been a great deal of improvement since.

There are no slaughter-houses in the area.

Meat surrendered amounted to 108 lbs. because of bone taint and decomposition.

FOOD PREMISES

58 surrender notes were issued relative to unsound food, details of which are appended. Disposal was carried out satisfactorily.

Commodity Surrendered	Quantity	Reason for condemnation
Cereals	10 pkts.	Infested with mites
Cocoa	5 tins	Infested with mites
Fish	6 tins	Blown
Flour	30 lbs.	Infested with mites
Frozen Lambs Livers	30 lbs.	Decomposition
Fruit	70 tins	Blown or Damaged
Meat	27 tins	Blown or Damaged
Meat	105 lbs.	Bone taint
Smoked Haddock Fillets	7 lbs.	Decomposition
Soup	4 tins	Blown
Syrup	1 tin	Damaged and infested with ants
Tomatoes	103 tins	Blown or Damaged
Vegetables	34 tins	Blown or Damaged

Food Preparation and Retail premises in the district may be classified as follows :

Bakehouses	22
Butchers	25
Confectionery and Cakes	35
Cafes	27
Chemists	16
Clubs	15
Dairies	19
Fishmongers	11
Fried Fish and Chip Saloons	8
Greengrocers	45
Grocers	82
Hospitals and Institutions	9
Licensed Premises	19
Milk Bars	2
Residential Hotels	14
School Kitchens	15
Sweet Shops	38
Wines and Spirits	8

Premises Registered are as follows :

For manufacture of Sausages, Potted Meats etc.	16
Bakehouses	22
Fried Fish Premises	8
Ice Cream Manufacture....	2
Ice Cream Retail....	105

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 came into operation completely on 1st July, 1956 with one temporary modification of local interest, viz. the picking of shrimps by outworkers has not yet been prohibited.

A concerted effort has been made to apply the new Regulations to all sections of the food industry, and a programme of inspection commencing with food preparing premises, viz., cafes, school kitchens, hotels, bakehouses, etc., receiving first attention and progressing through the various retail trades has been undertaken, and 80% of this work had been completed at the end of the year. 854 visits were made for the purpose and 170 notices covering a wide variety of requirements were issued. The local food traders have anticipated the Regulations in many cases and the improvements carried out have frequently exceeded those which could have been demanded under the Regulations. A spirit of co-operation has been in evidence from all sections of the trade and there has been no need for enforcement procedure. A list of improvements effected is given below :

Cautions given on smoking in food rooms	4
Cautions given not to allow animals in food rooms	10
First aid kits provided	34
Floors repaired or relaid	24
Improvements to refuse storage	19
Improvements to ventilation in food rooms	6
Miscellaneous	127
Provision of clothing lockers	21
Provision of hot water to wash hand basins	4
Provision of intervening space to W.C.'s	5
Provision of new sinks	15
Provision of towels, soap and nail brush to wash hand basins	12
Provision of wash hand basins	43
Rooms re-decorated	124
Repairs and re-decoration to W.C.'s	47
Tables and shelves covered to form hard smooth impervious surfaces	56
Replastering repairs	21
Wash your hands notices affixed in W.C.'s....	82
No. of protected shelves and counter displays	28

Ice Cream.

There are two local manufacturers on the register and both use the Cold Mix method.

There are 105 dealers on the register and 9 manufacturers outside the district supply them.

Fifty three samples of ice cream and seventeen samples of ice lollies were submitted to the Bacteriologist. The results are given below :

Ice Cream

Source of Supply	No. of Samples	Grade			
		1	2	3	4
Local	7	7	—	—	—
External	46	44	2	—	—

Ice Lollies

Source of Supply	No. of Samples	Satisfactory	Un-satisfactory
Local	2	2	—
External	15	15	—

Adulteration.

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

List of Samples taken in the Hoylake Urban District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year ended 31st December, 1956.

Name of Sample	Number Obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Borax	1	—
Baking Powder	1	—
Brandy	1	—
Beer, canned	1	—
Codeine Linctus	1	—
Cream	1	—
Cream of magnesia	1	—
Camphorated oil	2	—
Dried apricots	1	—
Desiccated coconut	1	—
Dandelion coffee	1	—
Fruit loaf	1	—
Fruit mixed	1	—
Fish paste	1	—
Glycerine	2	—
Grapefruit squash	1	—
Jam	2	1
Jelly	1	—
Lemon Curd	4	—
Lard	1	—
Liquid paraffin	2	—
Milk ...	48	1
Milk condensed	2	—
Macleans powder	1	—
Mint sauce ...	1	—
Nut Spread	1	—
Onions dried	1	—
Perry	1	—
Sweets	1	—
Sugar, icing	1	—
Soda mints	1	—
Syrup of figs	1	—
Sultanas	1	—
Semolina	1	—
Sausages, tinned	1	—
Tomato puree	1	—
Yeast flakes....	1	—
Zinc ointment	1	—
TOTALS	93	2

Particulars of non-standard samples.

Hoylake Urban District.

No.	Sample	Analysis	Remarks
1	Raspberry Fruit Preserve	Sample did not conform to the requirements of the Food Standards (Preserves) Order, 1953 inasmuch that it was 26% deficient in soluble solids	Manufacturers cautioned
2	Milk (Channel Islands)	15% deficient in fat	Retailer received milk (ready bottled) from a farm in Wales. Farmer cautioned

Shellfish

An order under the Shellfish Regulations is operative over an area extending from the Red Stones to the Northward boundary of the district. It is administered by the Liverpool Port Health Authority

Food Poisoning Outbreak

A small outbreak of food poisoning of which the organism *Salmonella typhi-murium* was identified as the cause, occurred in Hoylake in November. It was confined to members of one family and the child of a neighbour.

It would appear that the outbreak commenced with the infection of the father from a source outside the district, the other persons being infected later.

Continued surveillance and the submission of specimens to the Public Health Laboratory was necessary for a period of three months before the outbreak cleared.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

One wholetime Rodent Operator is employed. He deals with specific complaints and carries out routine inspections over the whole district dealing with any infestations he finds. In addition he carries out routine preventative treatments on refuse tips, waste lands and sewers.

Ten per cent of all manholes in the district are baited each half year thus giving a complete coverage every five years. No takes were recorded in the 332 manholes baited this year indicating that there is no serious infestation of the sewers in this area. This may be accounted for by the regular treatments and the fact that many of the sewers in the lower lying areas are fully charged at high tides.

The number of actual infestations dealt with are listed below :

Dwelling Houses (incl. Council Houses)	....	200
Business Premises	.... .... ....	7
Agricultural Land	.... .... ....	25
Local Authority Property	... .... ....	22
		<hr/>
	Total	254
		<hr/>

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

356 cases of notifiable diseases, other than tuberculosis, occurred during the year. Details of these are given in the table overleaf.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1956.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified											Cases ad- mitted to Hos- pital	Deaths
	Total	At ages—Years											
		Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 & over			
Scarlet Fever 	32	—	6	4	18	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	
Pneumonia	19	—	—	—	1	—	15	—	2	1	—	—	
Measles 	216	7	40	43	117	4	5	—	—	—	—	—	
Whooping Cough	77	3	15	27	31	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Food Poisoning	6	1	—	—	2	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	
Erysipelas 	5	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	3	—	—	—	
Dysentery 	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	
TOTALS 	356	11	61	75	169	7	23	4	5	1	—	—	

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

This work is undertaken in the District by the Cheshire County Council.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1956 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1956.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 5 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	3	6	1	—	—	1	—	—
25—35 years	3	3	—	2	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	3	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65 years	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 years and over	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	14	11	1	3	2	1	—	—

Note :

All were notified before death.

Tuberculosis.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the beginning of 1956.	81	71	152	11	8	19	171
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1956.	12	8	20	1	3	4	24
Number of cases removed from the Register during a preceding year which have been restored to the Register during the year.	2	1	3	—	—	—	3
Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to notice otherwise than by Notification under the Regulations.	—	2	2	—	—	—	2
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year.	7	9	16	1	—	1	17
Number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1956.	88	73	161	11	11	22	183

NESTON URBAN DISTRICT.

Neston was constituted an Urban District in 1894 and was extended on 1st April, 1933, by the inclusion of the Parish of Ness and parts of the Parishes of Burton, Puddington, Eastham, Willaston, Raby and Thornton Hough.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	8,497
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1956)	10,400
Number of inhabited houses	3,235
Rateable value	£123,999
Sum represented by a penny rate	£500

The area is residential and agricultural. The aforetime occupation of fishing still predominates at Parkgate. There are a number of scholastic institutions. Light industries of a type new to the district have been established.

The natural increase of a population is the excess of births over deaths. The following table shows the condition 1947—1956 in Neston :—

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population
1947	9,288	89 more births than deaths +9.6
1948	9,513	59 more births than deaths +6.2
1949	9,626	42 more births than deaths +4.4
1950	9,816	21 more births than deaths +2.1
1951	9,785	9 more births than deaths +0.9
1952	9,870	43 more births than deaths +4.4
1953	9,922	49 more births than deaths +4.9
1954	10,060	40 more births than deaths +4.0
1955	10,240	43 more births than deaths +4.2
1956	10,400	52 more births than deaths +5.0

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year 1956.

These statistics are calculated on a population of 10,400, the estimate furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births.				Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....	....	161	86	75
Illegitimate	....	....	....	5	—	5
Totals	....	....	....	166	86	80

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	....	16.0
Birth Rate standardised for comparison with England and Wales		16.8
Birth Rate for England and Wales	.... .... ....	15.7

Stillbirths.				Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....	....	4	1	3
Illegitimate	....	....	....	—	—	—
Totals	....	....	....	4	1	3

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	.... ....	23.5
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales		23.0

Deaths.				Total	Males	Females
				114	56	58

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population		11.0
Death Rate standardised for comparison with England and Wales		10.8
Death Rate for England and Wales	.... .... ....	11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Pregnancy, Childbirth		
Abortion	1	5.9

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:—

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	3	1	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	3	1	2
All infants per 1,000 live births....			18.1
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			18.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births			—
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales			23.8
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			22
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)			Nil

Number of Deaths during Years 1947—1956.

Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 per annum.
1947	106	11.4
1948	95	9.9
1949	123	12.8
1950	129	13.1
1951	128	13.1
1952	100	10.1
1953	103	10.4
1954	110	10.9
1955	148	14.5
1956	114	11.0

Deaths at Various Ages During 1956.

Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year	3
1 year and under 2	—
2 years and under 5	—
5 years and under 15	2
15 years and under 25	1
25 years and under 35	—
35 years and under 45	4
45 years and under 55	8
55 years and under 65	18
65 years and under 75	33
75 years and under 85	25
85 years and over	20
Total	114

Table of Infantile Mortality, 1947—1956.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births) :—

Year	Neston	England and Wales
1947	61.5	41
1948	12.9	34
1949	24.2	32
1950	46.7	29.8
1951	43.8	29.6
1952	49.0	27.6
1953	32.9	26.8
1954	20.0	25.5
1955	41.9	24.9
1956	18.1	23.8

Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Congenital Malformation	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
TOTAL	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	3

Causes of Death.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	—	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	1	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1	5
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	3	10
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	5	18	23
18. Coronary disease, angina	11	4	15
19. Hypertension with heart disease	—	2	2
20. Other heart disease	8	7	15
21. Other circulatory disease	2	3	5
22. Influenza	—	—	—
23. Pneumonia	4	2	6
24. Bronchitis	2	—	2
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	—	—	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	2	—	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	—	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	5	9
33. Motor vehicle accidents	1	—	1
34. All other accidents	—	1	1
35. Suicide	—	—	—
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	1	1
TOTALS	56	58	114

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1956 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population Estimated Mid-Year	LIVE BIRTHS				DEATHS								Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)		
		Number	Rate	Standardised Rate for comparison with England & Wales	Rate England & Wales	Total Number Registered in District	Transferable		Under 1 year			At all ages				
							Of Non-Residents Registered in District	Of Residents Not Registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate England & Wales	Number	Rate		Standardised Rate for Comparison with England & Wales	Rate England & Wales
1947	9,288	195	20.9	—	20.5	80	17	43	12	61.5	41	106	11.4	—	12.0	+89
1948	9,513	154	16.2	—	17.9	68	5	32	2	12.9	34	95	9.9	—	10.8	+59
1949	9,626	165	17.1	—	16.7	103	16	36	4	24.2	32	123	12.8	11.5	11.7	+42
1950	9,816	150	15.3	15.3	15.8	110	18	37	7	46.7	29.8	129	13.1	11.7	11.6	+21
1951	9,785	137	14.0	14.0	15.5	102	14	40	6	43.8	29.6	128	13.1	11.7	12.5	+9
1952	9,870	143	14.5	14.5	15.3	75	16	41	7	49.0	27.6	100	10.1	9.0	11.3	+43
1953	9,922	152	15.3	15.3	15.5	74	10	39	5	32.9	34.2	103	10.4	9.2	11.4	+49
1954	10,060	150	14.9	15.6	15.2	116	26	20	3	20.0	25.5	110	10.9	9.8	11.3	+40
1955	10,240	191	18.7	19.6	15.0	132	28	44	8	41.9	24.9	148	14.5	12.0	11.7	+43
1956	10,400	166	16.0	16.8	15.7	107	28	35	3	18.1	23.8	114	11.0	10.8	11.7	+52

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Details are given on page 3.

Laboratory Facilities.

Investigations of a Public Health nature are undertaken by the Birkenhead and Liverpool branches of the Ministry of Health Laboratory Service. A clinical pathology service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board in the laboratories at the Clatterbridge General Hospital.

Food and drugs throughout the district are still submitted for analysis to the Cheshire County Laboratory. The samples are taken by County Officers.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Cheshire County Council is the ambulance authority for this area. There has been a great increase in the demand for ambulance and hospital transport, and it has been necessary to provide for a considerable expansion of the service in order to meet the increased volume of work.

The ambulance service is operated from Broomfield, Meols Drive, Hoylake, (telephone Hoylake 2970) and Sandymount, Telegraph Road, Heswall (telephone Heswall 3003).

Nursing in the Home.

This service is now provided by the Cheshire County Council and three District Nurse Midwives and one Midwife are employed to serve this Urban District.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

The following Clinics are provided by the Cheshire County Council :--

Place.	Each Month.	Time.
School Clinic.		
Clinic Centre, Mellock Lane, Neston	.... Every Tuesday	9 a.m.

Place	Each Month.	Time.
Child Welfare.		
Clinic Centre, Mellock Lane, Neston ....	.... Every Thursday	1-30 p.m.
Red Cross Depot, Willaston ....	.... 1st and 3rd Fridays	2-0 p.m.

Ante-Natal.

The Ante-Natal Clinics are provided by the Cheshire County Council in conjunction with the Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee and are held at :—

Clinic Centre, Mellock Lane, Neston ....	.... Every Monday	9-0 a.m.
(The County Health Visitors and Midwives are in attendance)		

Ear, Nose and Throat.

Clatterbridge Hospital	.... Every Thursday	4 to 5 p.m. children
	Every Friday	10-30 a.m. to 12 noon Adults.
		3-30 to 4-30 p.m. Children.

Paediatric.

Clinic Centre, Neston Every Thursday	1-45 p.m.
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Ophthalmic.

Clinic Centre, Neston 1st Wednesday	9-0 a.m.
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Speech Therapy.

Clinic Centre, Neston Every Thursday	9-0 a.m. to 12-0 noon.
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Dental.

Clinic Centre, Neston Every Tuesday	9-0 a.m. to 12-0 noon
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Place.	Each Month.	Time.
Tuberculosis Dispensary.		
42 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead Every Tuesday 2-0 p.m. to 5-0 p.m.
	Every Thursday	.... 10-0 a.m. to 5-0 p.m.
	Every Friday	.... 2-0 p.m. to 5-0 p.m.
Venereal Diseases.		
St. James Hospital, Tollemache Road, Birkenhead.	.... Every Monday	.... 2-30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Male and Female.
(Clinic Annexe)	Every Wednesday	10-0 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. Male and Female.
	Every Friday	.... 2-0 p.m. to 6-30 p.m. Male and Female.
Chester Royal Infirmary	.... Every Monday	.... 5 p.m. Female
	Every Wednesday	5 p.m. Male
	Every Thursday	.... 5 p.m. Female
	Every Saturday	10-30 a.m. Male.

Hospitals.

The Neston and District War Memorial Cottage Hospital has 52 beds and two cots. It is equipped for general surgery and has Massage and Out-Patient Departments. It is staffed by local medical practitioners and visiting consultants. The Hospital is controlled by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board and is in the area of the Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee. Other hospitals managed by the Board are available to local residents. The hospital at Clatterbridge still admits a number of patients from this area and others go to the hospitals of Birkenhead, Liverpool and Chester. The Smallpox Hospital for treatment of cases of this disease is at New Ferry.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

This Act gives power to Local Sanitary Authorities to arrange for removal to hospital under a Justice's order of aged and infirm persons who are not able to look after themselves and who are not receiving proper care and attention. Much time and patience are needed in order to help these old people and a number of such cases have been investigated. Experience has shown that the provisions of this Section are not very effective mainly because of the shortage of hospital and other accommodation for the infirm and chronic sick.

Mortuaries.

There is a mortuary at the Neston and District War Memorial Cottage Hospital.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The water supply of the area and of its several parts has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity.

The Council supplies water from its own pumping stations to the area of the former Neston and Parkgate Urban District Council whilst the area ceded from the late Wirral Rural District in 1933 is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board.

Mostyn House School has a private supply of water from an artesian well at the school, and there is also an independent supply from a deep well at the Neston Laundry.

None of the waters supplied has a plumbo-solvent action and the Analyst's reports have revealed no evidence of contamination.

The Council's supply is not softened. It has a hardness of 224 expressed in parts per million at the waterworks situate at Lees Lane, Little Neston.

Every house, with one exception, has a piped supply from the public mains. Details are given below :-

	Dwelling Houses			Population
(a) House direct	3,235	10,400
(b) Standpipes	—	—

Consumption.

The volume of water pumped from the Council's Waterworks is estimated to represent a consumption of approximately 42 gallons per head per day.

The details of the volume supplied to consumers in this area by the West Cheshire Water Board are not available, but it is estimated that consumption was in the order of 30 gallons per head per day.

Drainage and Sewerage.

A preliminary report on the proposal to provide sewerage facilities in the village of Burton was under discussion during the year.

In other parts of the district the extension of public sewers is necessary to deal with properties, some 280 in number, at present draining to septic tanks. Where there are colonies of such dwellings, the disposal of the septic tank effluents becomes a distinct embarrassment, and the pollution of ditches is almost unavoidable.

Rivers and Streams.

There is no gross pollution of streams. The diversion of sewage effluent from a stream in the Willaston area has removed a constant source of nuisance.

Closet Accommodation.

In rural parts of the district remote from sewers a number of pail closets and chemical closets are in use.

Open Spaces.

The District has some 68.0 acres of public open space.

Public Cleansing

“ Civilization is the distance man has placed between himself and his excrement ”.

During the year a large refuse collection vehicle of a type new to the district was brought into service. With a re-organisation of the collection rounds parts of the district were re-introduced to a weekly collection service which it is hoped to maintain.

The finding of sites suitable for use as tips becomes increasingly a problem and it is difficult to envisage a solution not based upon some kind of regional or group basis. The hopes of those who visualised the extensive use of house refuse as an ingredient used as a soil restorative and fertilizer would appear to have received a setback from the Report of the Natural Resources (Technical) Committee on “ The Use of Towns’ Wastes in Agriculture. ”

One method of dealing with the problem is the attempt to reduce the quality of material ultimately to be dumped by recovering to a greater extent materials which can be returned to industry and also by attempting to educate the public in the exercise of greater discrimination in the use of the dust bin. Although in this latter connection care must be taken that the slogan “ Burn your refuse ” does not generate an antithesis to the Clean Air Act. It is all a matter of balance. As Kipling observed—

“ For up and down, and round and round go all appointed things, and profits on the roundabouts mean losses on the swings.”

Salvage.

The following table shows the weight and value of the material returned to industry during this year.

Material	Weight			Value		
	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	168	19	3	1342	16	9
Rags	3	16	2	102	7	6
Non-ferrous Metal	0	14	0	35	5	0
	173	9	5	£1480	9	3

The weight and value of material salvaged since 1939 is :—

Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
1523	14	3	12358	3	8

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made	Notices Served		Result of Service of Notice		Prosecutions	
	Statutory	Informal	Complied With	Outstanding	Instituted	Pending
Dwelling houses :						
Inspected 121	4	32	27	9	—	—
Re infectious disease 73	—	6	6	—	—	—
Housing Acts on complaints 23	3	12	12	3	—	—
House to house inspection 92	28	51	76	3	—	—
Overcrowding 17	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, vans and sheds 12	—	1	—	—	—	—
Factories 46	—	7	7	—	—	—
Theatres and cinemas 6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies 83	—	—	—	—	—	—
Milk samples 76	—	3	3	—	—	—
Premises used for preparation of food 243	—	72	72	—	—	—
Fried fish shops 10	—	1	1	—	—	—
Ice cream premises 37	—	2	2	—	—	—
Water samples 18	—	—	—	—	—	—
Keeping of animals 12	—	4	4	—	—	—
Schools 32	—	7	6	1	—	—
Sewers, ventilators, etc. 3	—	—	—	—	—	—
Back passages —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Drains inspected 24	1	5	6	—	—	—
„ smoke tested 5	—	2	2	—	—	—
„ water tested —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Septic tanks and cesspools 75	—	16	15	1	—	—
Refuse collection and disposal 483	—	—	—	—	—	—
Offensive accumulations 16	—	5	5	—	—	—
Rats and mice destruction 52	—	16	16	—	—	—
Pools, ditches and watercourses 12	—	3	3	—	—	—
Privy middens —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Public conveniences 5	—	3	3	—	—	—
Ashpits and bins 16	—	4	4	—	—	—
Control of civil building —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke observations 48	—	4	4	—	—	—
Soil samples for patho- genesis.... —	—	—	—	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses 131	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL 1871	36	253	271	17	—	—

Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

Inspections

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	11	6	2	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	33	28	4	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	12	1	—
Total	52	46	7	—

Defects found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	1	1	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	2	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	7	7	—	1	—

Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

The factories in the district have been visited from time to time and the attention of the occupiers has been directed to those matters necessary to secure compliance with the Act.

Shops and Offices.

Inspections under Section 10 of the Shops Act, 1934, were made to secure compliance therewith.

Camping Sites.

No licences were granted under Sections 268 and 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution

In one instance it was necessary to draw attention to the need to reduce the amount of smoke emitted from a factory chimney. The installation of an induced draught system resulted in a distinctive improvement.

Complaints were received about the emission of sulphur gases from factories on the Welsh coast. This matter was referred to the Government Inspector of Alkalis and an assurance was received that all practicable steps would be taken to minimize such emissions.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of houses found to be infested:—

(a) Council Houses	....	....	....	....	None
(b) Other Houses	....	....	....	....	None

Number of Houses Disinfested:—

(a) Council Houses	....	....	....	....	None
(b) Other Houses	....	....	....	....	None

Schools.

Detailed improvement has taken place in conditions at the Ness Holt C. of E. (Controlled) School, subsequent to the School becoming controlled. Other Schools in the district have also been the subject of improvement.

Housing.

During the year the following progress has been made :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected during 1956 :—			
(a) Permanent	30	49	79
(b) Temporary	—	—	—
Number of flats provided in 1956	36	—	36
Totals	66	49	115

The progress made since the building programme commenced is shown below :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected since 1st August, 1945 :—			
(a) Permanent	412	275	687
(b) Temporary	75	—	75
Number of flats provided since 1st August, 1945	36	21	57
Totals	523	296	819

One dwelling was the subject of a demolition order made under the Housing Acts and was demolished.

Slum Clearance

There is no statutory definition of the word Slum despite its use official circulars. A picture of a large area of squalid dwellings huddled in together in mean and narrow alleys and courts where the sun is seldom seen and dilapidation, dirt and despair are the rule, is evoked by the word.

Slum is a complete misnomer in relation to the relatively small groups of houses scattered about the district which are included in the clearance programme, and it is most unfortunate that the term is applied indiscriminately. For the corollary of a slum is that the denizens thereof are slum dwellers and this term has acquired an unfortunate connotation which arouses the resentment of those to whom it is applied. This is not a plea for the adoption of the modern trend of substituting a fanciful name for a prosaic one. A slum and the unfit dwellings with which the Council has to deal are of different species.

Two Clearance Orders involving six houses were made and confirmed during the year and one was demolished as the result of formal action under the Housing Acts.

Title of Order	Address	No. of dwellings involved	No. of persons displaced
Neston No. 2 Clearance Order	1/4 Pear Tree Crescent	4	7
Neston No. 3 Clearance Order	9/10 Brook Street	2	3
Individual Unfit House	"The Elms," Liverpool Road	1	4

Declarations relating to two further Clearance Areas comprising eight houses were awaited at the year's end.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Supervision of the production of milk was transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture at the end of 1949. Close liaison is maintained with the Milk Production Officer of the Ministry.

The following licences were issued under The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1954:—

Tuberculin Tested	....	....	....	Dealers	3
Tuberculin Tested—Pasteurised	....			Dealers	2
Sterilised	....	....	....	Dealers	1
Pasteurised	....	....	....	Dealers	1
Sterilised	....	....	....	Supplementary	2
Pasteurised	....	....	....	Supplementary	2
T. T. Pasteurised	....	....	....	Supplementary	1
TOTAL					12

Results of Examination of Milk Supplies.

Designation	Number of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Biological		Turbidity	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed	Positive	Negative	Passed	Failed
Pasteurised	17	17	—	17	—	—	—	—	—
Sterilised	6	6	—	6	—	—	—	4	—
T.T. Past.	28	27	1	28	—	—	—	—	—
T.T.	25	25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	76	75	1	51	—	—	—	4	—

Meat and Other Foods.

The following sets out the quantity of foodstuffs found not to be fit for human consumption :—

Article Condemned	Weight in lbs.	Reason for Condemnation
Imported Beef 	117	Bone taint
Canned tongue.... 	6	Punctured container
Canned Ham (German) ...	30	Decomposed
Corned Beef 	6	Blown
Canned Ham (Polish) ...	110	Decomposed
Total weight in lbs. 	269	

A number of tinned boneless shoulder hams of Polish origin were condemned because of decomposition. The tins appeared to be perfectly normal and the condition of the contents became apparent only after they had been opened.

Condemnation certificates in the form requested by the Ministry of Food were supplied in each case.

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-1954.

There are four licensed slaughtermen.

Slaughterhouses.

There is one licensed slaughterhouse.

Premises registered under Section 6
Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Type	Number
Sale of Ice-cream 	25
Manufacture of Ice-cream 	1
Manufacture of Sausages, etc. 	4

Food Premises.

Type of Business	Number
Butchers 	9
Bakers and Confectioners 	6
Grocers and Provision Dealers 	29
Fishmongers } Greengrocers } 	15
Fried Fish and Chip Shops 	3
Cafes 	7
Hotels and Residential Clubs 	4
Works Canteens.... 	3
Sweetmeats 	3
Delicatessen 	1
Educational Establishments 	10
Canteens 	3
Licensed premises 	13
Shrimp Dealers 	7

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	24	1	458	1715	211	nil
Number inspected	24	1	458	1715	211	nil
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condem- ned	nil	nil	2	3	nil	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condem- ned	1	nil	nil	26	nil	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	4.1	—	0.43	1.69	—	—
Tuberculosis only						
Whole carcases cond'n'd	nil	nil	nil	nil	nil	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condem- ned	1	1	nil	nil	1	—
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.1	100	—	—	0.47	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condem- ned	nil	nil	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigera- tion	nil	nil	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	nil	nil	—	—	—	—

Adulteration.

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

List of Samples taken in the Neston Urban district under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year ended 31st December, 1956.

Name of Sample	Number Obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
Beef Sausage	1	—
Cream	2	—
Desiccated Coconut	1	—
Fish Paste	1	—
Gin	2	—
Jam	1	—
Lemon Curd	1	—
Lard	1	—
Milk	16	3
Marmalade	1	—
Margarine	2	—
Meat Paste	1	—
Suet	1	—
Whiskey	1	—
TOTALS	32	3

Particulars of non-standard samples Neston Urban District.

No.	Sample	Analysis	Remarks
1	Milk	2.3% deficient in non-fatty solids. Genuine but abnormal	No action.
2	„	1.1% deficient in non-fatty solids. Genuine but abnormal.	— do. —
3	„	2.3% deficient in non-fatty solids. Genuine but abnormal.	— do. —

Ice Cream.

Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue (hrs.)	No. of Specimens reducing Methylene Blue	No. of Specimens with						Provisional Grade
		Presumptive Coliforms		Faecal Coli		Staphylococcus Aureus		
		Present	Absent	Present	Absent	Present	Absent	
4½ or more	16	—	—	5	11	—	16	1
2½ — 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
½ — 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	16	—	—	5	11	—	16	—

Shellfish.

There are no layings in the district. The delicacies known as Parkgate Shrimps, which enjoy a more than local reputation, although prepared and despatched from the neighbourhood are caught in the wide estuary of the River Dee.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Maintenance treatment of sewers was carried out in areas in which test baiting indicated the presence of rats. There was no evidence of surface infestation in these areas.

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

There is one registered Pet Shop.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

202 cases of notifiable disease other than Tuberculosis occurred during the year. Details of these are given in the following table.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1956.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified										Cases ad- mitted to Hos- pital	Deaths
	Total	At ages—Years										
		Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 & over		
Scarlet Fever 	10	—	1	—	8	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia 	30	1	1	2	—	3	1	6	11	5	5	—
Measles 	92	5	24	29	32	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough 	46	6	9	10	19	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis 	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Patyphoid 	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis 	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Dysentery 	22	—	3	1	5	8	1	4	—	—	—	—
TOTALS 	202	13	38	42	65	14	2	12	11	5	7	—

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

This work is undertaken in the District by the Cheshire County Council.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1956 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1956.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55 years	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years and over	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	1	5	—	1	1	—	—	—

Note:—The above death was that of a patient who had been notified before death.

Tuberculosis.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the beginning of 1956.	24	16	40	6	7	13	53
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1956.	1	2	3	—	1	1	4
Number of cases removed from the Register during a preceding year which have been restored to the Register during the year.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to notice otherwise than by Notification under the Regulations.	—	3	3	—	—	—	3
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year.	2	1	3	—	—	—	3
Number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1956.	23	20	43	6	8	14	57

WIRRAL URBAN DISTRICT.

This district was constituted under the Chester Review Order, 1st April, 1933. It includes the Parishes of Heswall, Barnston, Gayton, Irby, Pensby, Thurstaston and parts of Brimstage, Thornton Hough and Arrowe.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,639
Registrar-General's Estimate of Resident Population (mid-1956)	....	....	....	....	....	....	18,130
Number of inhabited houses	....	....	....	....	....	....	5,950
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	....	....	£233,544
Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	....	....	....	....	£940

The district is mainly residential. Agriculture, fishing, the building trade and two factories manufacturing clothing employ a number of persons.

The natural increase of a population is the excess of births over deaths. The following table shows the condition 1947—1956 in Wirral :—

Year	Population	Natural Increase per 1,000 of Population
1947	16,610	148 more births than deaths +8.9
1948	17,130	115 more births than deaths +6.7
1949	17,230	70 more births than deaths +4.1
1950	17,180	35 more births than deaths +2.0
1951	17,160	5 more births than deaths +0.3
1952	17,000	50 more births than deaths +2.9
1953	17,040	31 more births than deaths +1.8
1954	17,160	35 more births than deaths +2.0
1955	17,530	29 more births than deaths +1.6
1956	18,130	18 more births than deaths +1.0

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year 1956.

These statistics are calculated on a population of 18,130 the estimate furnished by the Registrar-General.

Live Births.				Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....		240	136	104
Illegitimate	....	....		5	2	3
Totals	....	....	....	245	138	107

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	....					13.5
Birth Rate standardised for comparison with England and Wales	....	....	....	....	....	14.7
Birth Rate for England and Wales				....	....	15.7

Stillbirths.				Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	....	....		8	5	3
Illegitimate	....	....		—	—	—
Totals	....	....	....	8	5	3

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	....	....				31.6
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births for England and Wales						23.0

Deaths.				Total	Males	Females
				227	108	119
Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population						12.5
Death Rate standardised for comparison with England and Wales	....	....	....	....	....	11.9
Death Rate for England and Wales				....	....	11.7

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	1	3.9

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	2	2	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	2	2	—
All infants per 1,000 live births			8.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			8.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...			—
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales			23.8
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)			47
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)....			Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)			Nil

Number of Deaths during Years 1947—1956.		
Year	Number	Rate per 1,000 per annum.
1947	183	11.0
1948	184	10.7
1949	207	12.0
1950	190	11.1
1951	222	12.9
1952	177	10.4
1953	197	11.6
1954	224	13.1
1955	233	13.3
1956	227	12.5

Deaths at Various Ages During 1956.	
Age	Number of Deaths
Under 1 year	2
1 year and under 2	—
2 years and under 5	—
5 years and under 15	—
15 years and under 25	—
25 years and under 35	2
35 years and under 45	6
45 years and under 55	14
55 years and under 65	39
65 years and under 75	68
75 years and under 85	67
85 years and over	29
Total	227

Table of Infantile Mortality, 1947—1956.

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age (per 1,000 live births) :—

Year	Wirral	England and Wales
1947	33.2	41
1948	30.1	34
1949	28.9	32
1950	26.7	29.8
1951	26.4	29.6
1952	13.2	27.6
1953	21.9	26.8
1954	11.6	25.5
1955	34.3	24.9
1956	8.2	23.8

Infantile Deaths.

The causes of death of children under the age of one year are shown below :—

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1—2 weeks	2—3 weeks	3—4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3—6 months	6—9 months	9—12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Congenital Malformation	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Total	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2

Causes of Death.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General, and the classification is given according to the cause of death.

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	3	2	5
2. Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	—	1
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	5	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	13	—	13
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast....	—	7	7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	12	8	20
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1
16. Diabetes	—	2	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	12	23	35
18. Coronary disease, angina	24	14	38
19. Hypertension with heart disease	3	9	12
20. Other heart disease	14	18	32
21. Other circulatory disease	2	4	6
22. Influenza	—	1	1
23. Pneumonia	3	8	11
24. Bronchitis	8	—	8
25. Other diseases of respiratory system....	—	1	1
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	—	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	3	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	1	1
31. Congenital malformations	1	—	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	10	11
33. Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
34. All other accidents	3	—	3
35. Suicide	1	—	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—
TOTALS	108	119	227

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1956 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

Year	Population Estimated Mid-Year	LIVE BIRTHS				DEATHS						Natural Increase (Excess of Births over Deaths)				
		Number	Rate	Standardised Rate for Comparison with England & Wales	Rate England & Wales	Total Number Registered in District	Transferable		Under 1 year				At all ages			
							Non-Residents Registered in District	Residents Not Registered in District	Number	Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Rate England & Wales		Number	Rate	Standardised Rate for Comparison England & Wales	Rate England & Wales
1947	16,610	331	19.9		20.5	173	53	63	11	33.2	41	183	11.0		12.0	+148
1948	17,130	299	17.5		17.9	161	43	66	9	30.1	34	184	10.7		10.8	+115
1949	17,230	277	16.1		17.7	175	44	76	8	28.9	32	207	12.0	10.9	11.7	+70
1950	17,180	225	13.1	13.3	15.8	138	15	67	6	26.7	29.8	190	11.1	10.0	11.6	+35
1951	17,160	227	13.2	13.4	15.5	173	17	66	6	26.4	29.6	222	12.9	11.6	12.5	+5
1952	17,000	227	13.4	13.6	15.3	120	20	77	3	13.2	27.6	177	10.4	9.4	11.3	+50
1953	17,040	228	13.3	13.5	15.5	140	20	77	5	21.9	26.8	197	11.6	10.4	11.4	+31
1954	17,160	259	15.1	16.4	15.2	144	20	100	3	11.6	25.5	224	13.1	11.5	11.3	+35
1955	17,530	262	14.9	16.2	15.0	156	23	100	9	34.3	24.9	233	13.3	11.7	11.7	+29
1956	18,130	245	13.5	14.7	15.7	155	24	96	2	8.2	23.8	227	12.5	11.9	11.7	+18

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

Details are given on page 3.

Laboratory Facilities.

Investigations of a Public Health nature are undertaken by the Birkenhead and Liverpool branches of the Ministry of Health Laboratory Service. A clinical pathology service is provided by the Regional Hospital Board in the laboratories at the Clatterbridge General Hospital.

Food and drugs throughout the district are still submitted for analysis to the Cheshire County Laboratory. The samples are taken by County Officers.

Ambulance Facilities.

The Cheshire County Council is the ambulance authority for this area. There has been a great increase in the demand for ambulance and hospital transport and it has been necessary to provide for a considerable expansion of the service in order to meet the increased volume of work.

The ambulance service is operated from Sandymount, Telegraph Road, Heswall, (telephone Heswall 3003), and Broomfield, Meols Drive, Hoylake—(telephone Hoylake 2970).

Nursing in the Home.

This service is now provided by the Cheshire County Council and three District Nurse Midwives are employed by them to serve this Urban District.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics are conducted by the County Council.

The following Clinics are also provided by the Cheshire County Council :-

Child Welfare.

Place	Each Month	Time.
Clinic Centre, Telegraph Rd., Heswall	.... Every Monday	.... 1-45 p.m.
Methodist Church Hall, Irby	Every Wednesday 1-45 p.m.

School Clinic.

Clinic Centre, Telegraph Rd., Heswall Every Tuesday 1-45 p.m.
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Ante-Natal.

The Ante-Natal Clinics are provided by the Cheshire County Council in conjunction with the Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee and are held at :—

Clinic Centre, Telegraph Rd., Heswall	.... Every Thursday	.... 9-30 a.m.
The County Health Visitors and Midwives are in attendance.		

Paediatric.

Clinic Centre, Heswall Every Tuesday 10-0 or 2-0 p.m. (alternate weeks)
------------------------	--------------------	--

Ophthalmic.

Clinic Centre, Heswall 2nd and 4th Fridays	1-0 p.m.
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Speech Therapy.

Clinic Centre, Heswall Every Friday 9-0 to 4-0 p.m.
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Dental.

Clinic Centre, Heswall Every Wednesday	9-0 to 4-0 p.m.
------------------------	----------------------	-----------------

Ear, Nose and Throat.

Clatterbridge Hospital	.... Every Thursday	.... 4 to 5 p.m.
		Children
	Every Friday	.... 3-30 p.m. to 4-30 p.m. Children
	Every Friday	.... 10-30 a.m. to 12 noon Adults.

Tuberculosis Dispensary.	Each Month.	Time.
42 Hamilton Square, Birkenhead	.... Every Tuesday	.... 2-0 p.m. to 5-0 p.m.
	Every Thursday	... 10-0 a.m. to 5-0 p.m.
	Every Friday	.... 2-0 p.m. to 5-0 p.m.

Venereal Diseases.

St. James Hospital, Tollemache Road, Birkenhead. (Clinic Annexe)	.... Every Monday	.... 2-30 p.m. to 6-30 p.m. Male and Female
	Every Wednesday	.... 10-0 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. Male and Female.
	Every Friday	.... 2-0 p.m. to 6-30 p.m. Male and Female.
Chester Royal Infirmary	.... Every Monday	.... 5 p.m. Female.
	Every Wednesday	.... 5 p.m. Male.
	Every Thursday	.... 5 p.m. Female.
	Every Saturday	.... 10-30 a.m. Male.

Hospitals.

The Hospitals of the District, both Voluntary and Public are under the control of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board. Wirral is in the area of the Central Wirral Hospital Management Committee.

The hospitals at Clatterbridge still admit a large number of patients from this area and others go to the hospitals of Liverpool and Birkenhead.

The Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, Heswall, accommodates 242 patients. It is the country branch of the Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital, and was designed originally for the treatment of orthopaedic cases. The Hospital admits patients from this area. It is equipped with a steam disinfectant.

The Cleaver Sanatorium for the reception of cases of tuberculosis admits patients from this district.

The Maternity Home at Oldfield Way, Heswall, which has accommodation for 13 maternity patients is now under the management of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

The Smallpox Hospital for treatment of cases of this disease is situated at New Ferry.

National Assistance Act, 1948.

This Act gives power to Local Sanitary Authorities to arrange for removal to hospital under a Justice's order of aged and infirm persons who are not able to look after themselves and who are not receiving proper care and attention. Much time and patience are needed in order to help these old people and a number of such cases have been investigated. Experience has shown that the provisions of this Section are not very effective mainly because of the shortage of hospital and other accommodation for the infirm and chronic sick.

Mortuaries.

The Public Mortuary which is owned by the Urban District Council is situated in Thurstaston Road, Heswall.

The premises are unsatisfactory and arrangements have been made for post mortem examinations to be made at the mortuary owned by the Hoylake Urban District Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The District is supplied by the West Cheshire Water Board. The main sources of supply are deep wells at Prenton, Hooton and Mouldsworth. The water is controlled by frequent chemical and bacteriological examinations, all of which have proved satisfactory. None of the waters has a plumbo-solvent action.

Work on a scheme for the extraction of water from the River Dee is well advanced and water from this source is already being used for industrial purposes.

Public main supplies are in use throughout the area for drinking, domestic, trade and agricultural purposes. Every permanent dwelling house has a separate piped supply of mains water and standpipes are used only in connection with dwellings constructed of short-lived materials which are normally used for seasonal occupation, but which as a result of housing shortage are now occupied on a permanent basis.

The Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital has an independent supply from a borehole 300 feet deep. A supply of water from the public mains is available for the hospital when required.

Particulars of the number of dwelling houses and of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to houses and (b) by means of standpipes are given below :

				Dwelling Houses	Population
(a)	House direct	....	....	5,909	18,005
(b)	Standpipes	....	....	41	125

Consumption.

Details of the quantity supplied to consumers in this area are not available but it is estimated that the average daily consumption per head was 32.5 gallons.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Parts of Heswall, Irby, Pensby and Thurstaston are sewered to the North Wirral Outfall; parts of Heswall, Irby, Pensby and Barnston to the Fender Valley Sewer; Gayton and parts of Heswall to the River Dee.

During periods of heavy rain flooding continued to occur in various parts of the District. The chief cause of this is the inability of the main sewers to cope with drainage from extensive pre-war and post-war building development and the Council has resolved to limit future development until more satisfactory provision has been made for drainage.

Consulting Engineers have prepared an amended scheme for improving and enlarging the Fender Valley Sewer and this has been submitted to interested authorities for their consideration and observations.

Pollution of watercourses arising from the North Wirral Outfall Sewer attracted the attention of the Cheshire Rivers Board. Improvements to this sewer are necessary outside the boundaries of the Urban District.

Rivers and Streams.

One case of minor pollution caused by the unsatisfactory effluent from a septic tank was remedied.

Following informal action three watercourses were cleaned out to prevent flooding of adjoining land, and the County Land Drainage Officer is investigating a complaint about flooding which is the result of the unsatisfactory condition of agricultural land.

Building development in the vicinity of Norton Drive, Irby, is creating conditions which could in certain circumstances cause serious flooding and the Council's Surveyor has prepared a scheme for improving surface drainage.

Closet Accommodation.

The following premises are provided with pail closets :—

Permanent Dwellings	....	....	10
Temporary Structures	....	....	42

Open Spaces.

There are some 223.5 acres of public open space in the district.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse Collection.

In spite of difficulties caused by the steadily increasing number of dwellings and the shortage of suitable labour there was a regular weekly collection of refuse from houses and a twice weekly collection from certain shops and institutions.

Statistics.

Number of Premises from which refuse collected	6452
Number of Bins emptied per week	6910
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 premises visited (per visit)	£34.05
Net cost of collection and disposal per 1,000 bins collected (per collection)	£33.17

Refuse Disposal.

During the year the new disposal site at Thurstaston was brought into use and all refuse was dealt with by means of controlled tipping.

The Council has purchased a bulldozer and scraper for use on the disposal tip and these have resulted in the work being done more efficiently and economically.

Salvage.

The quantity of salvage continues to increase and to cope with waste paper the Council purchased a mechanical baler and a bale loader. This equipment cost £595 and was purchased out of revenue leaving a net profit from salvage operations of £1,078. The total net profit from the sale of salvage since 1939 is now £14,133.

	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Cwt.</i>	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Waste Paper	343	0	3	2866	4	7
Textiles	5	4	3	157	2	6
Mixed Metals	1	8	1	12	9	7
Tins for Baling	8	13	0	51	19	2
	358	6	3	£3087	15	10

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.
Inspections made during the year ended 31st December 1956.

Number and Nature of Inspections Made		Notices Served		Result of Service of Notices		Prosecutions
		Informal	Statutory	Complied With	Remaining in hand	
	No.					
Dwelling Houses:—						
Inspected on Complaints ...	171	75	4	54	25	—
Re Inspected	1004	—	—	—	—	—
Re Infectious Diseases ...	82	—	—	—	—	—
Re Infestations	70	—	—	—	—	—
Housing Acts on Complaints	213	—	—	—	—	—
House to House Inspection ...	113	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	19	—	—	—	—	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	278	—	—	—	—	—
Factories Acts:—						
With Mechanical Power ...	88	2	—	—	2	—
Without Mechanical Power...	21	—	—	—	—	—
Outworkers	2	—	—	—	—	—
Building Sites	340	13	—	11	2	—
Cinemas	2	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies and Milkshops ...	3	—	—	—	—	—
Milk Distribution	10	—	—	—	—	—
Milk Samples	189	—	—	—	—	—
Shops Act Inspections ...	63	—	—	—	—	—
Premises used for Preparation of Food	221	—	—	—	—	—
Food Hygiene Regulations ...	436	64	—	27	37	—
Fried Fish and Chips Shops ...	2	—	—	—	—	—
Food Inspections	27	—	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream Premises	169	—	—	—	—	—
Ice Cream and Lolly Ice Samples	442	—	—	—	—	—
Swabs for Bacteriological Examination	351	—	—	—	—	—
Water Supply	24	—	—	—	—	—
Water Samples....	5	—	—	—	—	—
Pigs, Fowls and Other Animals	123	—	—	—	—	—
Schools	35	1	—	1	—	—
Sewers, Ventilators, Street Gullies	81	1	—	—	1	—
Carried forward ...	4,584	156	4	93	67	—

Sanitary Inspection of the Area—*continued*

Inspections made during the year ended 31st December, 1956.

Number and Nature of Inspections made	No.	Notices Served		Result of Service of Notices		Prosecutions
		Informal	Statutory	Complied With	Remaining in hand	
Brought forward	4,584	156	4	93	67	—
Drains Inspected	1745	62	—	37	25	—
Excavations made	48	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Tested	710	—	—	—	—	—
Water Tested	4	—	—	—	—	—
New Buildings	315	—	—	—	—	—
Septic Tanks, Cesspools	76	1	—	1	—	—
Refuse Collection	534	—	—	—	—	—
Refuse Disposal	354	—	—	—	—	—
Dustbins	224	28	1	25	4	—
Offensive Accumulations	86	—	—	—	—	—
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act:—						
Sewers	620	—	—	—	—	—
Agricultural Property	122	—	—	—	—	—
Private Dwellings	4040	—	—	—	—	—
Business Premises	249	2	—	2	—	—
Local Authority Property	134	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Observations	157	—	—	—	—	—
Smoke Complaints Visited	19	—	—	—	—	—
Advisory Visits to Works	24	—	—	—	—	—
Pools, Ditches, etc.	227	18	—	16	2	—
Public Conveniences	13	—	—	—	—	—
Licensed Premises	4	1	—	—	1	—
Swabs for Bacteriological Examination	90	—	—	—	—	—
Street Vendors and Hawkers Carts	9	1	—	—	1	—
Flooding	215	—	—	—	—	—
Pet Animal Act Inspections	2	—	—	—	—	—
Miscellaneous	61	—	—	—	—	—
	14,666	269	5	174	100	—
Notices outstanding from 1955	—	56	—	43	13	—
Totals	14,666	325	5	217	113	—

Factories Act, 1937 & 1948.

Inspections.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	8	21	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	43	88	2	—
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' Premises)	93	340	13	—
Total	144	449	15	—

Defects found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	13	15	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	—	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	7	6	—	6	—
Total	21	21	—	6	—

Licensed Premises.

Extensive structural alterations to the sanitary accommodation at one licensed premises were commenced during the year and it is anticipated that the improvements will be completed very early in the New Year.

The arrangements for washing glasses continued to receive attention and in this connection swabs from glasses were submitted for bacteriological examination. In four instances the reports were not wholly satisfactory and after appropriate action subsequent reports were satisfactory.

Shops.

Sixty-three routine inspections of shop premises were made to ensure compliance with the requirements of Section 38, Shops Act, 1950.

Camping Sites and Moveable Dwellings.

There continues to be a great demand for camping sites in this district and many enquiries were received concerning the proposed use of Council owned land at Thurstaston for this purpose.

Six licences were issued authorising the use of land for camping purposes. All of these sites were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

Number of Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures in the District for the year ended 31st December, 1956.

Ward	Vans, Sheds, etc.		Tents (March to October)
	Permanently Occupied	Casually Occupied	
Barnston	—	3	—
Gayton	—	—	—
Heswall	17	48	24
Irby	9	26	—
Pensby	—	—	—
Thurstaston	1	3	—
TOTALS	27	80	24

Smoke Abatement.

During the year 200 routine observations and advisory visits to works were undertaken in connection with smoke emission from non-domestic chimneys.

Serious smoke nuisances from boilerhouse chimneys at two hospitals have been abated. At one, the furnaces were adapted for burning coke and at the other the installation of mechanical stokers and ancillary equipment is nearing completion.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There is no public swimming bath in this District. A boys' boarding school and a boys' camp have private swimming baths the latter having equipment for filtration and chlorination of the water.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Number of Houses found to be infested :—

(a)	Council Houses....	....	....	....	....	None
(b)	Other Houses	....	....	....	....	None

Number of Houses disinfested :—

(a)	Council Houses	....	....	....	....	None
(b)	Other Houses	....	....	....	....	None

Schools.

The educational establishments in the District now consist of one Secondary Modern School, three County Primary Schools, one Church of England (Controlled) School, two Church of England Schools and eight private Schools.

All the schools have water closets and are supplied from the public water supply.

School canteens have been inspected in connection with the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 and where necessary action is being taken to improve the premises and equipment.

HOUSING.

Repairs.

The continually increasing cost of repairs made many owners reluctant to attend to essential repairs and tenants were compelled to seek the assistance of the local authority.

Demolition and Clearance.

Four unfit houses were demolished during the year and undertakings were accepted from the owners of four other unfit houses that they would not be used for human habitation.

New Accommodation.

During the year 6 houses were built by the Council and 256 houses by private enterprises.

The following table indicates the progress made since 1st August, 1945 :—

Description	Local Authority	Private Enterprise	Total
Number of new houses erected since 1st August, 1945 :-			
(a) Permanent	571	799	1370
(b) Houses and Shops	2	—	2
(c) Pre-fabricated	40	—	40
Number of war damaged houses erected since 1st August, 1945 :-	—	4	4
Number of flats provided	6	14	20
TOTALS	619	817	1436

The annual rent roll of Council Houses now exceeds £52,000 and arrears of rent are negligible.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are eleven retailers of milk in the district.

The following licences were issued for the sale of designated milks :

Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949-1954.

Dealers Retailing Licence	5
Supplementary Retailing Licence	1

Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milks) Regulations 1949-1954.

Dealers Retailing Licence	25
Supplementary Retailing Licence	12

All schools receive supplies of pasteurised milks and the milk provided in hospitals is either pasteurised or tuberculin tested.

Milk Sampling.

This work is undertaken regularly and systematically, all samples being submitted for bacteriological examination to the Public Health Laboratory in Birkenhead. The results of samples examined during the year were as follows :

Designation	No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test	
		Passed	Failed	Passed	Failed
Tuberculin Tested	29	29	—	—	—
Pasteurised	*94	89	2	91	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	*65	58	4	60	2
Sterilised	1	1	—	1	—
TOTALS	189	177	6	152	2

*Tests void on 3 samples of each designation because of excessive room temperature.

Meat Inspection

There is no slaughter-house in the Urban District, all meat supplies being obtained from adjacent areas.

Routine inspections of all butchers shops and vehicles transporting meat confirmed that they were being maintained in good order.

Unsound Food.

Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption were as follows :—

Commodity Surrendered	Quantity
Bacon	6 lbs.
Carrots	4½ cwts.
Cheese	5 lbs.
Cheese Spread	½ lb.
Cooked Ham	47 lbs. 3 ozs.
Meat	284 lbs.
Peas	22 Bags
Peas (Dried)	3 lbs.
Sausages	5 lbs.
Sauce	1 Btle.
Tomatoes	20 lbs.
Canned Fish	8 Tins
Canned Fruit	16 Tins
Canned Meat	16 Tins
Canned Milk	9 Tins
Canned Vegetables	29 Tins

CLEAN FOOD CAMPAIGN.

The Food Hygiene Regulations 1955 came into force during the year and in this connection six-hundred and fifty-seven visits were made to retail food premises and in sixty-five instances informal action was necessary to ensure compliance with the new regulations.

Catering establishments continued to receive regular attention and the practice was continued of submitting swabs from equipment for bacteriological examination. On eleven occasion the reports were not wholly satisfactory and action was taken to improve the washing-up technique.

Talks were given to various women's organisations and subsequent discussions indicated the lively interest taken in this subject.

The Council provided facilities for hand washing in one of the public conveniences.

Ice Cream.

There are nine premises registered for the manufacture and fifty-six for the sale of ice cream.

Routine inspections were made of all these premises and attention was also given to vans retailing ice cream in the area.

Ice Cream Sampling.

During the year three hundred and twenty-six samples of ice cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and gave the following results :

Class of Mix	No. of Samples	Provisional Grade Number			
		1	2	3	4
Cold Mix	12	12	—	—	—
Heat Treated	314	313	1	—	—
TOTALS	326	325	1	—	—

In addition, one hundred and sixteen lolly ices were examined and no pathogenic organisms isolated.

Adulteration.

This work is undertaken by the Cheshire County Council.

List of Samples taken in the Wirral Urban District under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, during the year ended 31st December, 1956.

Name of Sample	Number Obtained	Number adulterated or not up to the recognised standard of quality
A.P.C. Tablets	1	—
Boric Acid Ointment	1	—
Butter	1	—
Cream	1	—
Cream of Magnesia	1	—
Coffee	2	—
Camphorated Oil	1	—
Curry Powder	1	—
Desiccated Coconut	3	—
Glycerine	1	—
Iodine Paint	1	—
Lemon Curd	2	—
Lemon Barley Water	1	—
Milk	28	—
Marmalade	1	—
Olive Oil	2	—
Orange Squash	1	—
Sweets	1	—
Salt	1	—
Zinc Ointment	1	—
TOTALS	52	—

SCHEDULE OF FOOD PREMISES.

The following is a summary of the food premises established within the Urban District :

Description	Number of Premises	Registrations under Food and Drugs Acts				
		Manufacture of Ice Cream	Sale of Ice Cream	Manufacture of Sausages	Potted, Pressed, Pickled or Preserved Foods	Fish Frying
Bakehouses	7	—	—	—	7	—
Bread and Confectionery	18	—	3	—	1	—
Butchers	13	—	—	12	7	—
Cafes	9	2	7	—	—	—
Canteens	3	—	—	—	—	—
Chemists	8	—	—	—	—	—
Clubs	5	—	—	—	—	—
Dairies.....	7	4	—	—	—	—
Egg Packing Station	1	—	—	—	—	—
Fishmongers	7	—	—	—	—	—
Fish and Chips Shops	5	—	1	—	—	5
Greengrocers	23	—	2	—	—	—
Grocers	35	1	21	—	1	—
Holiday Camps (Canteens)	2	—	1	—	—	—
Licensed Premises	13	—	—	—	—	—
Schools (Canteens)	10	—	—	—	—	—
Sweet Shops	26	2	21	—	—	—
Wines and Spirits	4	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	196	9	56	12	16	5

Shellfish.

There appears to be no gathering of cockles from layings which are within the jurisdiction of the Chester Port Health Authority.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

Two outbreaks of suspected food poisoning affecting five persons were investigated. Specimens were submitted for bacteriological examination but no pathogenic organisms were isolated.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

One whole-time rodent operative is employed and during the year the district was systematically inspected.

Routine test baiting of sewers disclosed evidence of slight rat infestation in two small lengths of sewer. As a result of building operations in the area the end of the sewer was open. After poison treatment had been carried out, arrangements were made for the sewer to be effectively sealed and further test baiting gave negative results.

The following is a summary of the work done :

Type of Property	Total Number of Properties Infested by Rats and Mice	Total Number of Inspections as a result of		Total Number of Properties treated by Local Authority
		Notifi- cation	Other- wise	
Agricultural	12	—	122	—
Private Dwellings	174	1241	2799	174
Business Premises	8	82	167	8
Local Authority	9	—	134	9
TOTALS	203	1323	3222	191

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

317 cases of notifiable disease other than Tuberculosis were recorded during the year.

Details of the cases are given in the following table :—

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) for the Year 1956.

Disease	Number of Cases Notified										Cases ad- mitted to Hos- pital	Deaths
	Total	At ages—Years										
		Under 1	1—3	3—5	5—10	10—15	15—25	25—45	45—65	65 & over		
Scarlet Fever 	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia 	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—
Measles 	236	2	39	63	127	3	2	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough 	58	5	7	8	35	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis 	4	—	—	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	4	—
Puerperal Pyrexia 	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Dysentery 	10	—	3	2	2	—	—	3	—	—	—	—
TOTALS 	317	10	49	73	166	4	5	6	2	2	4	—

Prevention of Blindness.

No action has been taken by the District Council under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for the prevention of blindness or for the treatment of persons suffering from any disease or injury to the eyes.

This work is undertaken in the District by the Cheshire County Council.

Tuberculosis.

No action has been taken during 1956 under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1956.

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15 years	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
15—25 years	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35 years	4	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45 years	5	3	—	—	—	1	—	—
45—55 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65 years	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 years and over	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	—
TOTALS	15	11	—	1	3	2	—	—

Note : All were notified before death.

Tuberculosis.

	PULMONARY			NON-PULMONARY			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary TOTAL
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the beginning of 1956.	61	38	99	3	1	4	103
Number of cases notified under the Regulations for the first time during 1956.	9	4	13	—	1	1	14
Number of cases removed from the Register during a preceding year which have been restored to the Register during the year.	—	1	1	—	—	—	1
Number of cases added to the Register during the year which have been brought to notice otherwise than by Notification under the Regulations.	6	6	12	—	—	—	12
Number of cases removed from the Register during the year.	9	7	16	—	—	—	16
Number of cases remaining on the Register at 31st December, 1956.	67	42	109	3	2	5	114

